

Communicator

Mahoning County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Winter 2010

Happy Holidays from The Mahoning County Board of Developmental Disabilities

"The day program that my son attends has been a blessing for me as well as for him. It is a place he can go to be with his peers and feel a sense of friendship. It is his workplace where the smallest task that he completes is a large achievement, which gives him a feeling of self worth. When he is happy and content, I am happy and content for him."

Parent of an individual
in day programming



Parent Book committee recognized



Among those who contributed to the Parent Handbook were (left to right) Bob Beal, Dr. John Beal, Tiffany Gordon, Rocky Gordon, Terry Crogan, Annie Saraceno, Kim Johnson, Mary Ann McFarland, Leona Crogan, Judy Rizzo and Ryan Rizzo. Not pictured: Diane Beal, Sandy and Bob Hewitt, Maye W. Huff, Betsy Klingensmith, Mary Lou Nevi, Mary E. Huesken and Christina Simbulla.

During the November Board meeting, Superintendent Larry Duck recognized parents and others who contributed to the production of a new 40-page guide for parents and guardians of individuals with disabilities.

The book has been a work in progress for many, many years by many parents. The committee collected a large library of information over the years and their "Lifestages" approach was extremely helpful in organizing it.

Many parents also gave moving and meaningful quotes for the book and allowed a photographer in to take pictures of their sons and daughters.

To order a copy of the *Parent/Guardian Handbook*, please contact Paul Iden at 4791 Woodridge Drive, Austintown, Ohio 44515 or by telephone at 330-797-3051 or by e-mail to piden@mahoningcountyoh.gov.



Published By: MCBDD
4791 Woodridge Drive • Austintown, Ohio 44515
330-797-2825

Open Monday through Friday
8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

www.mahoningdd.org

LKS Kicks off the Holidays



LKS students kicked off the holiday season with a true Thanksgiving Feast and then enjoyed a visit from Santa, delicious food and fun, thanks to the Lions Club.



Bev Road and Meshel Support our Troops

Bev Road and Meshel made sure that the holidays would be festive for soldiers and Marines serving overseas with treats and donations.



Wellness Day Healthy Life Scan

Wellness Day, held at several MCBDD facilities, was well attended by staff and employees who received flu shots, blood pressure and glucose tests and heart ultra-sound screenings.



Special Olympics Banquet Recognizes Winning Spirit

Special Olympians along with their proud families and friends celebrated a successful year.



Community Services Holiday Giving Serves 81 Families

The Community Services Department's Holiday Giving Project provided food and gift baskets for 81 families in need this year with the help of staff and volunteers from the community as well as donations from local churches and businesses.

The Thanksgiving Day Basket Drive served 40 families who have individuals enrolled in MCBDD programs. The staff at Meshel MASCO donated 5 baskets, and cooked a turkey for one of the families who did not have an operating oven. The Community Services Department completed the other 35 baskets and distributed them to the families. Many thanks to the following participants who assisted this Thanksgiving:

The Tamarkin company donated all of the turkeys.

St. Charles & St. Vincent DePaul Society donated canned goods and potatoes.

The Community Services Giving Fund provided potatoes.

The Christmas Holiday project was also very successful, with SSAs submitting the names of 41 families who are in need this holiday season. Many groups assisted with this project. Meshel MASCO provided 6 Christmas baskets, St. Charles cheerleading squad provided gifts for 14 children, the Transportation Department



at the MCBDD donated many gifts for the families, and other families received gift cards donated by St. Charles & St. Vincent DePaul Society. In addition, the Centre @ Javit held a fundraiser at

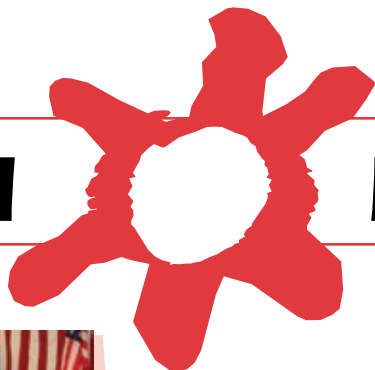
Barnes & Noble and all proceeds were donated to this project to complete Christmas baskets for the families. The Community Services Department would like to thank everyone who participated.

"Freaky Friday" event celebrates Halloween



More than 250 attended "Freaky Friday" at Meshel MASCO in celebration of Halloween. Everyone received a treat bag as well as a dinner of meatball splash sandwiches. Molnar Farms provided 70 pumpkins that were given away to participants and four received prizes for top costume.

Special



Recognition



Emma Organic, Centre @ Javit Court, started coming to the center four and a half years ago and now attends five days a week. She is very active in the Red Hat Group.



Charles Hray, Bev MASCO, had never been in a program until last year. He loves the workshops and never wants to miss a day. He is willing to try anything.



Linda Copploe, Bev MASCO, has worked in the MCBDD programs for 30 years. She loves challenges, likes to read and use the calculator. She has seen a lifetime of accomplishment with the love and support of her family.



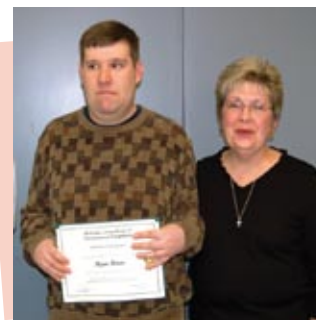
Matthew Mace, Leonard Kirtz School, has worked very hard to improve his ability to walk with minimum support. He can now walk 300 yards and back and forth to lunch. He is also very talented on the computer.



Patty Hooks, Centre @ Javit Court, has overcome many difficulties in the past year. She is a great friend to everyone and a great help to the secretaries at the Centre @ Javit Court. She is also an asset in the home where she lives and keeps it sparkling clean.



Michael Turner, Bev MASCO, is a repeat award winner. He is developing a lot of relationships and doing very well in his production area.



Ryan Rizzo, Meshel MASCO, has made fantastic progress toward his goals. His mother has been an enormous support to Ryan.



Lana Vogus, Meshel MASCO, is quiet and meticulous. Her presence and determination have been an inspiration.



Board Recognizes Farbman Family for 10 Years of Library Night at Bev Road

Harvey, Paul and Kathy Farbman were recognized for their commitment and dedication as they begin their tenth year of staging exciting, educational and fun evening activities at Bev Road. The family has provided more than 100 performances since October of 2000 no matter what the weather or other challenges.



Antonio Fusco, LKS, has overcome his fears of attending school and now loves LKS. He particularly enjoys music and is an avid Steelers fan. His mom, dad and the school have teamed up to make a real difference for Antonio.



Tiffany Gordon, LKS, has done a wonderful job of meeting the challenges of change this year.

Elizabeth Opincarne just graduated from high school and has completed more than 300 hours of community services. she will be attending MCCTC this fall, studying horticulture and hospitality.



Tom Giura, Centre @ Javit Court, brings a lot of laughter, joy and encouragement to the Centre. He is very cooperative and enjoys his daily programming.



Charlene Stein, Meshel MASCO, has faced many daunting changes recently. She was hospitalized, then moved to a nursing home and a group home. She has adjusted very well and is a joy to be around. She particularly likes entertaining friends and co-workers with karaoke.

Where to find Important WEATHER INFORMATION

When bad weather threatens, please visit the MCBDD web site: www.mahoningdd.org and the following broadcast stations for closings and updates:

TV:

Channel 21

Channel 27 This will also appear on the Fox (17/62) station

Channel 33

Radio:

WKBN - 570

WMXY - 89.9

WBTJ - 29.9

WNIO - AM 1390 and FM 101.9

WBBG Oldies - 106.1

WNCD CD - 93.3

and WICT Cat Country - 95.1

WHOT FM 101

WYFM - FM Y 103

WBBW - AM 1240

During cold weather, staying warm and safe can be a real challenge. Visit www.mahoningdd.org for some helpful hints to stay warm and healthy during the cold winter months.

Nominating Committee Submits Names for Board Offices

Pending action by the Mahoning County Commissioners, the nominating committee of the MCBDD board submitted the following:

Dawn Burton, President

Joseph Ignazio, Vice President

Angelo Pignatelli, Recording Secretary

Board Approves 2010 Budget

The Board adopted a motion to approve the calendar year budget in the total amount of \$24,928,845, a reduction of \$2.6 million, or more than 10%, from the 2009 budget.

Annual Plan Published

The 2010 Annual Plan, developed with input from the community, staff, families and caregivers is now available both on-line and in hard copy format by contacting Paul Iden.

Board Plans Levy Renewal

The Board adopted a resolution requesting the Mahoning County Auditor to provide the dollar amount of revenue that would be generated by the renewal of a three-mill levy that expires at the conclusion of the 2010 tax year. The Board plans to put the levy on the November, 2010, ballot.

Animal Planet

Throughout the year, individuals enjoyed many opportunities to meet and greet some unusual wildlife, from alligators to buffalo to pythons.



Mahoning County Summer Enrichment Program Reports Collaboration and Growth

Nancy Kropolinsky, program coordinator for the Mahoning County Educational Service Center (MCESC) and Cynthia Cairns, director of pupil services, MCESC reported that 117 students with multiple disabilities ages three to 22 from all school districts in Mahoning County participated in the 2009 Summer Enrichment Program.

Funded primarily by the school districts, MCBDD and agency waivers, the program provided occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech therapy as well as reading programs, transportation, free breakfast and lunch, recreational activities and a picnic attended by 300 students and family members.

MCESC provided coordination, staffing, supervision and other services in collaboration with many other community organizations.

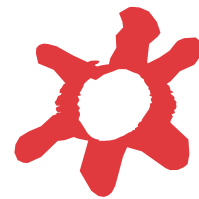
MCBDD provided funding, the facility where the program was held, transportation, case management and meals.

The Mahoning County/YSU Recreate Program provided reusable supplies and materials.

Youngstown State University and Kent State University enabled student teachers to receive field experience in special education and physical therapy through work in the program.

Iron & String Life Enhancements Program (ISLE) and the Hillside Rehabilitation Recreation Program helped out with recreational services, including fishing, miniature golf, archery and bocce.

The Canfield Public Library provided a summer reading program with awards and there were many guest speakers from the community.



Welcome New Staff



Katrina Montero, LPN
Leonard Kirtz School



Keri Baker
Meshel



Charles Cornelius
Transportation Aide



Albert Cubellis
Transportation Aide



Melissa Garner
PSA

Kaluza Project completed

MCBDD has been working with the family of Joseph Kaluza, "CORE 6" and contractors in building their new handicapped-accessible home. An indoor yard sale/bake sale organized by Workshop Specialists Beverly Miller and Sue Nelson at Bev MASCO raised nearly \$3,000 for the project. Kaluza was shot in the neck and seriously injured during an armed robbery in March. He is paralyzed from the neck down. The project was completed on December 13, 2009 when Mr. Kaluza was presented with the keys to his new home.





*Mahoning County Board of
Developmental Disabilities*

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Austintown, Ohio 44515-5100

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Have a Question about MCBDD Programs?

If you would like more information on the Mahoning County Board of DD's programs, policies, facilities, hours of operation, addresses, telephone numbers, or if you would like clarification of something you heard about the MCBDD, please contact Paul Iden at 4791 Woodridge Drive, Austintown, Ohio 44515 or by telephone at 330-797-3051 or by e-mail to piden@mahoningcountyoh.gov

GOT NEWS?

Pass information to Paul Iden. E-mail: piden@mahoningcountyoh.gov
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Judge Mark A. Belinky**